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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/652,207	09/02/2003	Tomohiro Ikeda	Q77255	1709

23373 7590 07/06/2005
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EXAMINER

FIGUEROA, FELIX O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/652,207

Applicant(s)

IKEDA ET AL.

Examiner

Felix O. Figueroa

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/02/03, 2/19/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda (US 6,346,011) in view of Takahashi et al. (US 6,206,718).

Ikeda discloses a battery connecting plate comprising: a plate body (P_1), disposed on a plurality of arrayed batteries; a first terminal (18), provided with a first portion (at 18a) which is connected to one of the batteries, and a second portion (19) which is connected to an electronic element (21); and a cover member (P_0 , 32,49), attached onto the plate body in a first direction, to provisionally fix the first terminal on the plate body. Ikeda discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the tolerance compensator.

Takahashi teaches the use of tolerance compensator (51) between two connecting portions to reduce stress between the connecting portions (see abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the terminal of Ikeda with a tolerance compensator connecting the first portion and the second portion while compensating a positional

difference between the first portion and the second portion in the first direction, as taught by Takahashi, to reduce stress between the first and second portions.

Regarding claim 2, Ikeda, as modified by Takahashi, discloses the first terminal comprises a terminal body and a flexible leg portion extended from the terminal body to serve as the tolerance compensator.

Regarding claim 3, Ikeda, as modified by Takahashi, discloses the terminal body is provided with the first portion, and the flexible leg portion is provided with the second portion.

Regarding claim 4, Ikeda discloses a second terminal (19a/20), to which the first terminal is electrically connected via the electronic element.

Regarding claim 5, Ikeda discloses the cover member comprises: a first cover (32), which is disposed on the plate body to provide a predetermined position relative to the plate body at which the second portion of the first terminal is placed, and a second cover (49), which is attached onto the first cover in the first direction to provisionally fix the flexible leg portion between the first cover and the second cover.

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Ikeda discloses the plate body being formed (after it is molded) with a first stopper and a second stopper, which restricts a movement of the cover member in the first direction and a second direction.

Regarding claim 8, Ikeda discloses the first terminal, the second terminal and the electronic element being electrically connected by soldering.

Regarding claim 9, Ikeda discloses a fixation member (18a), which fixes the first portion of the first terminal to the one of the batteries.

Art Unit: 2833

Regarding claim 10, Ikeda discloses the electronic element is an over-current protector resistor (i.e. fuse) provided in accordance with a maximum output voltage of the one of the batteries.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited prior art relates to connecting plates.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-2003. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 10:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2833

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Felix O. Figueroa
Art Unit 2833